

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 07945 191637Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /096 W  
-----044185 210642Z /11

R 191614Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6310  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 07945

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PORG AORG UNRWA XF LE  
SUBJECT: SECURITY IN LEBANON AND UNRWA PLAN TO MOVE  
HEADQUARTERS

REF: BEIRUT 2697

1. DURING DISCUSSION WITH POWELL, DEPUTY HEAD OF FCO  
NEAR EAST DEPT, ON MAY 17, EMBOFF RAISED ISSUE OF  
SECURITY OF DIPLOMATIC INSTALLATIONS IN BEIRUT AND  
LEBANON. EMBOFF NOTED OUR UNDERSTANDING FROM BEIRUT  
2697 THAT FCO BELIEVES UNRWA HEADQUARTERS SHOULD STAY  
IN BEIRUT.

2. POWELL SMILED AND SAID THAT PARTICULAR VIEW HAD  
BEEN ESPOUSED VIGOROUSLY BY STEPHEN DAY. THIS VIEW,  
SAID POWELL, REFLECTED FACT THAT DAY IS A FORMER BRITISH  
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PAGE 02 LONDON 07945 191637Z

COLONIAL SERVICE OFFICER IMBUED WITH THE TRADITION OF  
"STAY AT YOUR POST, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS." FCO DOES  
NOT REALLY HAVE STRONG VIEWS ON UNRWA REMAINING IN  
BEIRUT, BUT IS UNWILLING TO DISAVOW OPINION STRONGLY  
EXPRESSED BY DAY, A MUCH RESPECTED OFFICER.

3. POWELL DID, HOWEVER, ENDORSE DAY'S SECOND POINT IN

REFTEL, THAT IF UNRWA HEADQUARTERS WERE TO MOVE, IT SHOULD REMAIN IN THE REGION. POWELL WAS PUZZLED BY MCELHINEY'S PROPOSAL TO MOVE HEADQUARTERS BACK TO VIENNA, AND SAID FCO WAS PARTICULARLY PUZZLED BY MCELHINEY'S CONTENTION THAT EXPENSES OF MOVE TO VIENNA WOULD BE UNDER 100,000 DOLLARS (USUN 1915).

4. ON SUBJECT OF BRITISH MIDDLE EAST CENTER FOR ARABIC STUDIES (MECAS) LOCATED AT SHEMLAAN EAST OF BEIRUT, POWELL CONFIRMED THAT IN VIEW OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH SECURITY IN THE BEIRUT AREA HAS DETERIORATED RECENTLY, THE FCO REGRETS ITS DECISION TO REOPEN THE CENTER THERE LAST YEAR.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE CONTINUING TO RECEIVE TELEGRAMS ON UNRWA IN VIEW OF THE TRADITIONALLY HEAVY BRITISH INVOLVEMENT IN IT.

STREATOR

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SECURITY, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, HEADQUARTERS, CLOSURE OF OFFICES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978LONDON07945  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780213-1031  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 BEIRUT 2697  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2639644  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SECURITY IN LEBANON AND UNRWA PLAN TO MOVE HEADQUARTERS  
**TAGS:** PORG, AORG, XF, LE, UNRWA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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